
Sixteenth Session
Vienna, 19-24 November 2001

**ANNEX IX
to the Report of the Sixteenth Session
of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban
Treaty Organization**

**STATEMENTS OF CHINA AND COLOMBIA ON THE ISSUE OF
SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS**

This annex contains the statements of China and Colombia on the issue of scale of assessments. These statements are presented in Appendices I and II, respectively.

APPENDIX I

STATEMENT OF CHINA

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, the Chinese delegation welcomes the Chairman's withdrawal of his own proposal for the sake of seeking consensus in the Preparatory Commission. We hold that, judging by their nature, the measures set forth in the Chairman's proposal are not the transitional measures as referred to by the United Nations resolution; in addition, some countries in the Preparatory Commission would have difficulty in accepting such "transitional measures".

China wishes to express its serious reservations on the resolution on assessed contributions just adopted by the Preparatory Commission. We could have insisted on a vote or cast a veto; however, based on the spirit of cooperation and in response to the kindness shown by the Chairman in withdrawing his proposal, we decide not to block the adoption of this decision. Nevertheless, we wish to express our strong reservations by disassociating ourselves from participating in consensus.

Firstly, I wish to reaffirm here, the Chinese delegation insists that the resolution on assessed contributions as adopted by the United Nations comprises three elements, namely, the scale of assessed contributions, the maximum amount of assessment and the transitional measures. The above mentioned three elements must be considered when discussing this resolution. It is not allowed to focus on one element while excluding the others. We simply cannot endorse this approach of interpreting the United Nations resolution in a less integrated manner.

As stipulated by the United Nations resolution, the maximum amount of assessed contribution cannot automatically apply to the other international organizations, and the United Nations has adopted transitional measures in implementing the new scale of assessed contributions. Therefore, while requesting the transitional measures is in accordance with the United Nations resolution, setting forth this request accords even more with the United Nations resolution. As a famous saying goes, "agree to disagree": China does not wish that others impose their views upon us and vice versa. Though the position of China is right, China is ready to refrain from a quarrel in the interest of the Treaty and in an effort to save the expense of the Preparatory Commission.

Secondly, as I stated clearly in my previous observations, what China is contending for is principle, rather than money; it is not the intention of China to ask the others to pay our contributions by reaching into their own pockets. China has always paid the contribution to the Preparatory Commission in full and we will continue to do so. I wish to declare here that, despite our strong reservations on the scale of contributions of the Preparatory Commission, China will pay the full contribution to the Preparatory Commission in a timely manner in accordance with the newly adopted scale of assessed contributions of the Preparatory Commission. The reason that I underline this point is simply to affirm that what propels China to participate in this debate is principle, rather than money.

Thirdly, China takes this approach precisely because China firmly believes that the CTBT represents a treaty highly relevant to world peace and security. We are ready to work with other Member States to do our best so that the Treaty could enter into force as soon as possible. As we all know, the Preparatory Commission is faced with some difficulties caused

by a certain Member State. We do not wish to add to the difficulties of the Preparatory Commission.

Fourthly, China also decides to proceed in this way out of respect for you, Mr. Chairman, and the Executive Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat. We have held long discussions with them, stating clearly our different positions. We hope that our kindness would be returned on certain occasions and concerning other issues.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and the Executive Secretary as well as the representatives of many other countries participating in our discussions for their understanding of the position held by China. We are ready to work together with all parties concerned to bring the CTBT into effect at an early date and make for a better world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT OF COLOMBIA

Mr. Chairman,

The proposal to adopt a new scale of assessments for 2002 which has been put before the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization represents, in the specific case of Colombia, an increase of over 50% in the amount of its contribution to the Budget.

In figures, such a decision would represent an increase of around US\$50 000.

As was fully explained to Member States at the Nineteenth Session of Working Group A and also reported during this session of the Preparatory Commission (see the aide-memoire contained in document CTBT/PC/35 of 25 September 2001), and as brought to the attention of the Preparatory Commission at its Tenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sessions and stated at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, recently held in New York, the Colombian Constitution does not permit financial obligations to be undertaken without the authorization of a pre-existing law.

The Colombian law ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is currently being examined by the Constitutional Court and, assuming that this examination is favourable, it would still be necessary at that point to deposit the instrument of ratification.

Also, a compromise formula for resolving this situation is still under discussion.

It is not Colombia's intention to oppose any consensus emerging from the deliberations on this matter in the Preparatory Commission, but Colombia does wish to place on record that it is not in a position to support any decision to adopt a new scale of assessments that implies financial obligations.

In view of the foregoing, I would request that this statement be included as an annex to the decision on this matter adopted by the Preparatory Commission and that it be accordingly reflected in the report on this session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.